

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on November 14, 2007. All objections and rejections were respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 18, 21, and 22-24 are currently pending.

Claims 23-24 are added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

At paragraphs 4-5 of the Office Action, claims 1, 6, 18, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated over Chang et al., US Patent Application Publication 2002/0076597, hereinafter Chang.

The present invention, as set forth in representative claim 1, comprises in part:

1. A modular direct oxidation fuel cell array, comprising:

a plurality of individual direct oxidation fuel cells, each fuel cell having a membrane electrode assembly and an anode current collector and a cathode current collector, *each fuel cell having a first electrical coupling component disposed thereon and a second electrical coupling component disposed in a different location on said fuel cell, which second component corresponds with a first component of an adjacent cell to electrically and/or mechanically couple the cells together, to form a modular fuel cell array, wherein each fuel cell is separately manufactured prior to coupling and functions as a stand alone fuel cell.*

By way of background, Chang discloses a fuel cell pack with two or more fuel cells. The fuels are connected together in series by an electrical connection member. An anode plate and a cathode plate are connected to the fuel assembly using screws.

Applicant respectfully urges that Chang does not disclose Applicant's claimed novel *plurality of individual direct oxidation fuel cells ... each fuel cell having a first*

electrical coupling component disposed thereon and a second electrical coupling component disposed in a different location on said fuel cell, which second component corresponds with a first component of an adjacent cell to electrically and/or mechanically couple the cells together, to form a modular fuel cell array, wherein each fuel cell is separately manufactured prior to coupling and functions as a stand alone fuel cell. In further detail, in Applicant's claimed invention each fuel cell is manufactured as a single fuel cell. After manufacture, each fuel cell can be tested prior to coupling the fuel cell to an adjacent fuel cell. Additionally, with the fuels cells coupled after manufacture the number of fuel cells coupled together is adjustable.

In contrast, Chang discloses a fuel cell that is manufactured with 2 or 3 fuel cells together. Each fuel cell is not a stand alone fuel cell in Chang.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully urges that Chang is legally insufficient to anticipate the present claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 because of the absence of the Applicant's claimed novel *plurality of individual direct oxidation fuel cells ... each fuel cell having a first electrical coupling component disposed thereon and a second electrical coupling component disposed in a different location on said fuel cell, which second component corresponds with a first component of an adjacent cell to electrically and/or mechanically couple the cells together, to form a modular fuel cell array, wherein each fuel cell is separately manufactured prior to coupling and functions as a stand alone fuel cell.*

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

At paragraphs 6-7 of the Office Action, claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§103 as being unpatentable over Chang, in view of Aronsson, US Patent Application Publication 2003/0054240, hereinafter Aronsson.

Applicant respectfully notes that claim 2 is a dependent claim that depends from an independent claim believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claim 2 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

All independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are believed to be dependent from allowable independent claims.

Applicant respectfully solicits favorable action.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,

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